

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2389

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 15581

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IN, PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: INDIAN QUERY ABOUT SECRETARY'S LETTER TO  
CHAVAN ON BANGLADESH

REF: NEW DELHI 14347

1. JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS TEJA CALLED IN THE DCM NOVEMBER 22 TO DISCUSS BANGLADESH. REFERRING TO THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN HE SAID THAT THE US WAS GOING TO INFORM THE BANGLEES OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTION OF INDIAN NATIONALS AND OF THE HINDU MINORITY AND ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY RESPONSE. THE DCM REPLIED THAT THE BANGALEES APPRECIATED THE NEED FOR SUCH PROTECTION AND HAD TOLD US THEY HAD TAKEN STEPS TO PROVIDE IT. TEJA ASKED WHETHER COMMUNICATION HAD BEEN ORAL OR IN WRITING. THE DCM CONFIRMED IT HAD BEEN THE FORMER. TEJA ASKED WHETHER THE POSITION IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER REGARDING BANGLADESH'S AVOIDING ANY BALANCE OF POWER GAME HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH. THE DCM REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT IT HAD.

2. TEJA THEN SAID THAT THE GOI HAD RECEIVED A REPORT, WHICH NATURALLY DISTURBED THEM, THAT THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO DECLARE ITSELF AN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC: HE ASKED IF THE EMBASSY HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS AND INQUIRED ABOUT OUR VIEW CONCERNING THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE COUNTRY GENERALLY. THE DCM REPLIED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NO RPT NO INFORMATION

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ABOUT ANY BANGALEE INTENTION TO DECLARE AN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC.

HE THEN DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH AS ONE IN WHICH THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS MUTINIES; EACH SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BUT THE SITUATION REMAINED AN UNCERTAIN ONE. TEJA COMMENTED THAT THE INDIAN ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THE SITUATION WAS STILL VERY UNCERTAIN. THE GOI HAD FOUND SOMEWHAT DISQUIETING THE STORIES WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE US PRESS IMPLICATING INDIA FOR SUCH THINGS AS ARMED INTERVENTION IN BANGLADESH, HAVING A HAND IN THE NOV. 3 COUP, AND BACKING THE JSD. HE SAID THAT THESE REPORTS WERE GROUNDLESS AND MISCHIEVOUS AND RESTATED THE GOI POSITION THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS IN BANGLADESH IS AN INTERNAL MATTER. THE GOI IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS THERE AND WISHES THE BANGALIS WELL. IF, HOWEVER, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE HINDU MINORITY THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT POSSIBLE REFUGEES, TEJA SAID THAT WHILE HE DID NOT FOLLOW THIS MATTER CLOSELY HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PERSONS WHO WERE FLEEING FOR REASONS OF INSECURITY.

3. TEJA THEN LAUNCHED INTO A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE REPORTING ON INDIAN INTERVENTION IN THE WASHINGTON POST, WHICH IS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

4. WHILE TEJA CLEARLY WAS LOOKING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE ATTITUDE TOWARD MINORITIES AND INDIA OF THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT, WE BELIEVE HIS PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLES. WE REPORT THIS EXCHANGE, HOWEVER, AS AN INDICATION THAT INDIA CONTINUES TO BE ACTIVELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISLAMIC NATURE OF THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT AND THE PROTECTION OF HINDUS WHILE IT ADHERES TO ITS STATED POSITION OF NON-INTERFERENCE AND DENIES THAT INDIAN INTERVENTION HAS TAKEN PLACE.

5. SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO DACCA.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PREL, PINS, PINT, PFOR, IN, BG, US, (TEJA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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